

RECTOR'S REPORT (Rev. T. J. MacMahon, S. J.)

1931

Appearing at Convocation for the first time of my second term as Rector of Loyola College, I cannot but advert to the immense advances, in every sense, our young college has made under the able and far-sighted administration of my predecessors, Fathers Hingston and Bartlett. It is due to them that Loyola occupies its present proud position in public esteem. All friends of Fr. Bartlett will be pleased to hear that he has practically recovered from the very serious illness which laid him low some months ago.

I am happy to state that in spite of the wide-spread economic distress there has been no falling off in the number of students this year.

By the Providence of God the health of the student-body, on the whole, has been remarkably good; that of Staff, however, has not been quite so good.

The students have shown, in general, commendable energy in their work. Competition in all classes has been keen and the standard of achievement high, especially in the Sciences.

A few weeks ago the Junior Year gave a class-specimen in honour of the English-speaking pastors of the city that evoked high praise.

In spite of the fact that we had an exceptionally fine team our Intercollegiate debaters were less successful than usual. However, our second-line debaters in the newly-formed Montreal

Debating League, were more fortunate. They defeated McGill and the Lions' Club but lost out to the Y.M.C.A. and the Knights of Columbus.

The outstanding scholastic success of the year was the signal triumph achieved by the Dramatic Society in their play "It Pays to Advertise" given in this hall before a packed house. From every side came the most enthusiastic praises. It is generally conceded that this was the most successful play ever staged by Loyola students. We could and would do much more in this line were we not handicapped by the lack of an auditorium of our own.

The Loyola Contingent of the C.O.T.C. this year presented nine candidates for the examinations at the Imperial War Office, London, and of these eight successfully qualified as Lieutenants. This, I believe, is the best record of any C.O.T.C. unit in the country. The annual review of the corps was a most gratifying spectacle and elicited a highly complimentary report of the distinguished inspecting officer, Brigadier-General Gibson, G.O.C., Military Dist. No. 4.

We were proud to welcome to the ranks of the College Staff this year two Loyola Old Boys in the persons of Dr Neil Feeney and Mr Paul Casey, who, after distinguished careers at McGill University, gave our students the full benefit of their ripened scholarship. Dr Feeney taught Biology in the Pre-Medical Class and Mr Casey Fundamental Law to the Pre-law students.

That the remarkable success of these two Loyola graduates at the University was no isolated phenomenon is

clear from the examination results just out. At the University of Montreal Mr Moore Bannon, '28, who last year won the Sir Lomer Gouin Prize for the highest aggregate in all subjects, did even better this year. He won the Mail^{hot} Prize for the highest aggregate in all subjects of Second Year. He also won the Leduc Prize for the highest standing in Criminal Law and obtained first place in six other subjects.

In First Year Medicine at McGill University this year another Loyola Old Boy, Ralph Bailey, '30, won the Gold Medal in Histology, and Curtis^{Cochran}, '29, won the Sutherland Gold Medal in Second Year Medicine and honours in three out of four subjects.

In Third Year Medicine Mr Connolly Malloy, '27, who headed his class in first and second years, and was easily leading it in his third year, unfortunately broke down.

Clayton Rolfe, '28, won honours in the Final Year of Law.

When one considers the relatively small number of Loyola Graduates at these two great Universities and the very large number of competitors drawn from all parts of the country, these results shew that the Loyola Graduate, if he tries, can take his stand with the best in the land.

A few days ago it was our proud privilege to see a Loyola Graduate, the Rev. Edward Courtemanche, celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the College Chapel. Fr Courtemanche was ordained a few weeks ago.

Another Loyola Graduate, Reverend Raymond Sutton, S.J., will be ordained in a few weeks.

I take this opportunity of congratulating the L.O B.A. on the Loyola Alumnus, which saw the light this year, filling a long-felt want. Under the guidance of Mr John King, who was

re-elected President, and the new executive a prosperous and active year is assured the Association.

A note of sadness necessarily intrudes itself here as I recall the tragic and untimely death which hardly a year ago snatched from our midst one of the best known and best beloved of Loyola's Old Boys as he was one of the most devoted members of the College Staff, Fr Raymond Cloran, S.J. Perhaps I cannot do better than here read an excerpt from what an old College friend, Bishop Murray of Victoria, wrote about him for the Loyola Alumnus. As a friend he was devoted and absolutely true. Distance of time and place meant absolutely nothing to him, If he was for you, -and I sincerely believe he never had an enemy-, then you had one of the world's greatest gifts: the unselfish and unswerving loyalty of a generous heart."

Headlong he cast himself into the service of Our Lord. He became a whole-souled religious. Not an inch of his being was withheld or withdrawn from the unreserved sacrifice he made of himself. He was a holy priest - a zealous and sympathetic hospital chaplain, an enlightened and kindly director of souls, a wise leader of boys and young men.

Then came a quiet Sunday afternoon in June. A cry for help broke ~~not~~ its stillness. Father Raymond heard it. Heedless of danger, carried away by his impetuous, uncalculating devotedness, he plunged to his death. He had always gone at things with every ounce of energy he possessed, with his head down. That is why his old College-mates whispered: "He was true to himself to the end."

It must not be thought that in this report I have lost sight of the heroes of the evening -our Graduates. In a few minutes Mr Justice Serveyer, a very distinguished alumnus of my own Alma Mater, St.Mary's College, will speak to them from out the rich stores of a ripened experience. Last night I spoke to them ex abundantia cordis in an intimate family gathering. Here I will only add - and I speak in the name of the whole Staff - that our very best wishes and our earnest prayers accompany them on the new path which opens before them. May God bless them and prosper them in all their undertakings.